

Pascagoula Public Library
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Poitevent Family



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STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY
P. O. BOX 571
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39205-0571

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY
Manuscript Collection

Collection Title:

POITEVENT FAMILY PAPERS, (ACCRETION)

Dates Covered:

1891, 1895, 1900, 1933

Accession Number:

Z1751.1

Volume:

2.5 LIN. IN..

Original (X)

Duplicate () Microcopy () Photocopy ()

Provenance:

VIRGINIA F. POITEVENT OF OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI DONATED THESE VOLUMES IN
MARCH 1982.

Restrictions:

NONE

COPYRIGHT WARNING: THIS MATERIAL MAY BE PROTECTED BY COPYRIGHT LAW (Title 17 U.S. Code)

Biography/History:

SEE: Z1751

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S E P A R A T I O N R E C O R D

The following non-manuscript items were removed from the

✓ POITEVENT FAMILY PAPERS, ACCRETION Papers, accession #Z1751.1,
and have been sent to the section indicated.

STILL PICTURES & MAP SECTION: (photographs, maps, broadsides)

1 prints & 3 negatives (SERIES IV)

MOTION PICTURES & SOUND RECORDINGS: (films, filmstrips, tapes, discs)

STATE HISTORICAL MUSEUM: (artifacts)

LIBRARY: (books, pamphlets, periodicals, newspapers, government publications)

OTHER: (explain)

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MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

Manuscript Collection

Collection Title:	
POITEVENT FAMILY PAPERS	
Dates Covered:	Accession Number:
1848-1976	Z 1751
Volume:	
18.5 cubic feet	Original (X)
Duplicate () Microcopy () Photocopy ()	
Provenance:	
Presented to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History by Virginia Favre Poitevent, wife of Schuyler Poitevent, Jr., July, 1981. Processed in December, 1981.	
Restrictions:	
None	
COPYRIGHT WARNING: THIS MATERIAL MAY BE PROTECTED BY COPYRIGHT LAW (Title 17 U.S. Code)	
Biography/History:	
The Poitevent family, Huguenot by background, moved from North Carolina to Mississippi around 1836. William Poitevent settled first in Pearlinton, then in Gainsville (Hancock County) where he managed a saw mill. He married Mary Emilia Russ and they had eight children. The oldest was June Poitevent, born in 1837, in Pearlinton. One of the daughters was Eliza Jane, who later became the owner of the <u>Daily Picayune</u> (New Orleans). Eliza Jane was also a writer under the pen name of Pearl Rivers. June Poitevent worked in his father's saw mill until 1868, and then started a boating business on the Pearl River and on the Trinity River in Texas, where he bought a farm in 1870. He lived in Texas and summered in Mississippi until 1876, when he built a home in Ocean Springs. The same year he bought some land in Tampa, Florida. He spent much of his time in Florida as well as on trips to Texas trying to sell his land, and in Mexico, where he bought a ranch in Tampico (1895). He eventually went back into the lumber business with various companies in Mississippi and New Orleans. He married May Eleanor Staples in 1866, and had one son, Schuyler, born in 1875. Captain June Poitevent enlisted in the Third Mississippi Regiment in 1861. He was taken prisoner and held in New Orleans until the end of the war. Schuyler, June Poitevent's son, attended Tulane University and the University of Virginia (1894-1898). After graduating, he was employed by the <u>Daily Picayune</u> in 1898 as a reporter and book reviewer. As a boy he became interested in Indian artifacts and was elected a member of the Mississippi Historical Society in 1890 at the age of fifteen; but his interest in history did not develop until the (Appendix I)	

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POITEVENT FAMILY PAPERS, (ACCRETION)
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with item 1,000 while the previous book ends at 285.

Scattered notes from the 1930's are also present and seem to have been used with reference to relic lists for a revision of the turn-of-the-century catalogues.

Five newsclippings related to the Schuyler Poitevent, or interests of his, form a small series in the accretion to the Poitevent Collection.

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Scope and Content:

The interest of this collection is attached to the two individuals of June Poitevent - the history and the settlement of the Poitevent family in Mississippi - and of his son, Schuyler Poitevent, Senior, and his fascination with the history of Mississippi.

June Poitevent's diaries, which begin in 1876, provide a detailed account of a extremely enterprising man. His correspondence, as well as that of his wife and his son Schuyler, contain a wide variety of information about his adventures in Texas, Florida, Mexico and Mississippi during the last decades of the 19th century. Financial papers, including certificates, deeds and tax receipts, demonstrate a close collaboration with his wife, May Eleanor Staples. The only indication of June's connection with Pearl Rivers is a letter (undated) signed "Sis Liza" to June's wife, welcoming her to New Orleans, and some later correspondence between Schuyler (Sr.) and Eliza Jane's son, Leonard Nicholson, in the 1930's.

June Poitevent's oldest daughter, Cora married Charles Tracy Earle. The collection includes more than forty of his sketches, including some portraits, landscapes and animal studies.

A number of pictures of June's family, including family groups, the Staples and other collaterals illustrate this period of the family history.

The bulk of the manuscripts of the Poitevent Family Papers relate to Schuyler Poitevent, Sr., and more precisely to his historical interests. The correspondence he had with his father between 1889 and 1898 contains details about the formation of a collection of Indian artifacts which, according to an obituary, amounted to approximately 3000 items at his death. More information about the collection can be found in small notebooks, which are classified with his diary of 1891. A scrap-book started in 1889 shows the deep interest of a child of fourteen for this subject as well as the letters addressed to him by W.P. Rice Sims, Secretary of (Appendix I)

Series Identification:

See Appendix II

Other Finding Aids Available:

See Also: Z 1751.1

BIOGRAPHY/HISTORY continued

second half of his life. After marrying Thomasia Hancock in 1906, he moved to the Tampico Ranch. He raised cattle, exported vegetables and fruit until the Mexican Revolution forced him to abandon his interests and leave the country. He spent the rest of his life in Ocean Springs and dedicated himself to the study of the history of the Gulf Coast. He wrote a great number of short stories, poems and historical essays; none were ever published. He died in 1936, leaving a son, Schuyler Poitevent, Jr., who was born in 1911 in Mexico. The latter married Virginia Favre, the donor of this collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT continued

the Mississippi Historical Society.

These early interests certainly prepared Schuyler for his later research on Coastal History. The amount of correspondence and the number of historical manuscripts and research notes are but a sign of his enthusiasm. He corresponded with members of Southern families as well as principal Mississippi historians of the time, including Director of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Dunbar Rowland; and of the Alabama Department of Archives and History, Marie V. Owen; Henry P. Dart of the Louisiana Historical Quarterly; and others.

Schuyler Poitevent used the huge amount of material collected for stories on early Mississippi ("Sehoy's Boy," "Three Tales of the Natchez," and others) and for his three major works "Amichel," "The Broken Pot," and the unfinished "Pearls in Pottery," which covered the origins of Mississippi to the departure of the French. The correspondence and notes, not all of his hand, are full of references and details, known and unknown, about the history of Mississippi. He conducted research in the National Archives and major libraries and archives of the South and Mid-west, as well as in the small archives of courthouses in Mississippi.

The Mexican years provide some interesting materials about life on a ranch in Mexico at the beginning of the 20th century. The letters to both father and mother Poitevent, but especially the weekly correspondence between Thomasia and her mother (1907-1911), tells the story of the installation on the ranch, conditions of life, local customs, fishing, farming, camping and hunting trips, the export enterprise, the birth of Schuyler (Jr.) in 1911 and, the same year, the news of the Mexican Revolution. With regard to the Revolution, the correspondence contains an interesting congratulatory message for Schuyler's (Jr.) birthday in 1914 signed by Federal General Luis Caballeros, Colonel Nafarrete and the whole brigade. These years of his life influenced Schuyler (Sr.) greatly, as evidence by his later writings, both of poems and Mexican stories.

In addition, the collection offers some interesting material concerning Thomasia Hancock's family, such as the letter sent by Richard Hancock to his fiancée Thomasia Harris on October, 1864, from a hospital in Winchester while in the hands of Union troops. The story of his escape and also the story of his life have been written down under the titles of "Papa's Book," "Richard J. Hancock" and "Richard Hazlewood" presumably by Thomasia. More information about the Hancock family can be found in the Hancock-Thomasia correspondence of Mexico (1907-1911) and the correspondence of Thomasia with her two brothers, Arthur and Harris Hancock.

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SERIES II. CONTRACTS, CERTIFICATES, ESTATE PAPERS. 1848 - 1944. 13 items

Land grant; certificates relating to land in Texas; deed for land in Jackson County; claim against the U. S. Government concerning W. J. Poitevent's loss of Steamer A. G. Brown and other property during the Civil War; Fruit Growers Association Certificates. Box 12

SERIES III. DIARIES. 1876-1934. 15 items.

Diaries of Juna Poitevent, 1876 - 1918, including a revising diary starting in 1912; one diary of Schuyler Poitevent, Sr., 1890-1891, and two notebooks with information about Indian artifact collection; two book accounts of flight from Mexico (?) and operation of September, 1934.
Boxes 12 - 14

SERIES IV. NOTES AND MANUSCRIPTS/SCHOOL AND COLLEGE ASSIGNMENTS. 1895-1921. 18 items.

Essays written by Schuyler Poitevent, Sr., at the University of Virginia; one school exercise by Schuyler Poitevent, Jr., (1912).
Box 15

SERIES V. NOTES AND MANUSCRIPTS/MANUSCRIPTS. 8.7 linear feet. 1900-1936, n.d.

Fiction and non-fiction by Schuyler Poitevent, Sr., poems by Schuyler Poitevent; stories of Richard Hancock and fiction by Thomasia Hancock (?). Manuscripts and notes arranged chronologically as follows:

SCHUYLER POITEVENT

"The Carved Magnolia" n.d.
"The Depths of the Deep" 1900
"Mississippi's First Caucasian Resident" 1925
"La Pulsa-Pulse, a Gringo Tale of Old Mexico" 1927
Box 16

"Say-O-Day" 1927
"Azoque, a Peon Tale of the Rio Tamasi" 1927
"Why the Gavilan Catches the Pollitos" 1927
"La Boda Wedding, a Peon Tale of the Coyote" 1927
"Se Acabo el Coyote" 1927
"Porque el Javali no Tiene Cola" 1927
"Compra-Venta, a Tale of the Laguna Tamiahna" 1927
Box 17

"Don Manuel, El Bombero" 1929
"El Azadon del Municipio" 1928
"Escandalos" 1928
"Ojos" 1928
"Railes" 1928
"When se Acabo-ed the Trabajo of the Seccion" 1928
"Chismes" 1928
"The Sinvergvenzos" 1928
"La Cambia" 1928
"El Tigre" 1928

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SCHUYLER POITEVENT -Continued

"Dona Victoria" 1928

"Belem" 1928

"El Hoyo de los Ratos" 1928

"La Puente of Necesidad" 1928

"Don Lorenzo Estufa" 1928

Box 18

"Mazaquata" n.d.

"Molestias" n.d.

"Bull" n.d.

Mexican Stories n.d.

"Smoking out the Mafia" 1928

Box 19

"The Cap'n" 1928

"The Still" 1928

"My Tombstone" 1928

"Inherited Racial Characteristics" 1929

Box 20

"Mississippi's Land Pirates" 1929

Box 21

"Dulcinea" 1929

"March, 1876" 1929

Box 22

"Sehoy's Boy" 1930

"The Alibi" 1930

"Roosters Crowin" or "Shutting the Front Gate" 1928

"The Right Lightning-Bolt" 1930

Box 23

"In Spirits of Wine" 1930-1932

Box 24 - 27

"The Aztec Blood of Yore" 1930

"Dona Ysabel's Powers" 1931

"Wits" 1931

"Miss Jennie Orrell" 1931

"Life after Death, A Grave-Shed Story" n.d.

"Lorna's Reasons" n.d.

"Three Tales of the Natchez" 1932

Box 28

"Three Tales of the Natchez" 1932

Box 29

"Amichel" 1932

Box 30 - Box 36

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"Pineda's Espiritu Santo" 1933
Box 36

"Broken Pot" 1933
Box 37 - Box 38

"Pearls in Pottery" 1933
Box 38

"Hotel God, New Orleans" 1934
Box 39

"When the Senior Road Master Americans walked drunk and other Mexican Things" 1936
"The Coming of the British" n.d.
Box 40

Poems 1923 - 1926
Box 41

Poems 1927 - 1929, n.d.
Box 42

THOMASIA POITEVENT

"Richard J. Hancock, Dossier Volunteer, or the Young Southerner"
"An Escape from Winchester"
"Richard Hazlewood"
"A Coincidence"
Other notes by Thomasia Poitevent
Box 43

"Diana Dole"
Box 44

SERIES VI. NOTES AND MANUSCRIPTS/NOTES. n.d. 3 boxes

Research notes for the history of the Mississippi coast arranged chronologically or alphabetically by author or subject; chronologically schemes and drafts.
Boxes 45 - 47

SERIES VII. n.d. 18 items.

Genealogical notes on Poitevent family and collaterals (Lee, Williams, Hodges, Russ) and other families (Ladner, etc.). Notes about Biloxi and family estate by Virginia Poitevent.
Box 48

SERIES VIII. D'IBERVILLE DEDICATION. 1952. 1 box

Dedication of a marker in Ocean Springs on what is believed to be the location of Fort Maurepas. Includes correspondence and minutes of the meetings of the Fort Maurepas Dedicatory Committee (Secretary of the committee; Virginia F. Poitevent) and newsclippings.
Box 48

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SERIES IX. FINANCIAL PAPERS. 1876-1949. 130 items.

Papers arranged chronologically according to owners as follows: (Boxes 49 - 50)

-June and May Eleanor Poitevent: 1876-1929, accounts from Texas land agents; tax receipts and certificates delivered to June Poitevent, May Eleanor Poitevent and Adeline Staples for land in Texas, Florida and Mississippi (Jackson County).

-Thomasia Poitevent: 1910-1949, account with the Neale Publishing Company, checks and bank statements in account with the Ocean Springs State Bank (1920-1949), correspondence relating to New York Stocks and to taxes (1929-1949)

SERIES X. PHOTOGRAPHS. 149 item. n.d.

Photographs of family and friends.
Box 51

Photographs of Ocean Springs, Mississippi, Mexico, Florida and other unidentified locations.
Box 52.

SERIES XI. NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS. 1892-1975. 85 items.

Clippings relating to the history of Mississippi, obituaries of William Poitevent, Adeline Staples, June Poitevent and Schuyler Poitevent, Sr., The Daily Picayune including a copy from December 4, 1892 and a later one with an article about Pearl Rivers, the Jackson County Times (1928-1947), and clipping collection for a scrap-book started by Schuyler Poitevent, Sr., in 1889 exclusively for clippings related to indian artifacts.

Box 53

SERIES XII. PRINTED MATERIAL. 1877-1932, n.d. 23 items

Historical publications including Pearl Rivers.
Box 54

SERIES XIII. SKETCHES. 1881-1882 48 items.

Pencil sketches by Charles T. Earle.
Box 55

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Scope and Content:

Notes compiled on Mississippi archaeological finds in the latter part of the nineteenth century comprise the majority of the material in this collection. Schuyler Poitevent recorded information in three small notebooks and in scattered form.

The 1891 notebook includes the items found at numerous sites around Mississippi, statements ~~made~~ by those involved, diagrams of the location, and information on what became of the artifact. Indian mounds receive particular attention.

The 1895 notebook is entitled Check-list of Relics. This work catalogues 285 relics, stating what they were, who found them, where the find was made, and a brief history of item types when Poitevent was aware of it. Occasional references to the 1891 notebook are made that give more detail on an item.

The 1900 notebook is a continuation of the 1895 list and is entitled Relic List No. II. A significant gap in numbering exists in that this second book begins

Series Identification:

1. Notebooks: 3 vols., 1891, 1895, 1900.
2. Loose Notes: folder 4, 5 items - 1931-1933.
folder 5, 16 items - miscellaneous.
3. Newsclippings: 5 items -
 - a. From an unidentified Austin, Texas paper, November 1875.
 - b. From an unidentified New Orleans, LA paper, February 25, 1892.
 - c. New Orleans Daily Picayune, March 26, 1893.
 - d. New Orleans Daily Picayune, ca. 1933.
 - e. New Orleans Morning Tribune, December 21, 1933.

Other Finding Aids Available:

SEE: Z1751